

NOV 09 2006

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 20, 24 and 32 are amended. Claims 1-19, 28, 36, 39, 43, 47, 50, 54 and 58 remain in the application. Thus, claims 1-20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 50, 54 and 58 are active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

I. Indefiniteness Rejection

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 20, 24, 32 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner asserted that it was unclear whether the "e-mail" received in the server is transmitted to the mail terminal, and that the differences between the "attached-file specifying e-mail" and the "e-mail" were unclear.

The Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 as presented in the May 1, 2006 Amendment After Final are definite and positively recite that "an e-mail" is received in the server, not the mail terminal, and that "an attached-file specifying e-mail" is prepared in the mail terminal and received by the mail gateway.

Nevertheless, to avoid any confusion about what is received by the mail server, the mail gateway and the mail server, minor editorial revisions have been made to claim 20.

In particular, claim 20 has been amended to recite "receiving, in the mail server, an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holding a plurality of attached files included in the e-mail in the mail server." Claim 20 recites that the mail gateway generates a unique identifier for each of the attached files held in the mail server. Claim 20 has been amended to recite "generating, in the mail gateway, a list of the identifiers" generated in the mail gateway, and "transmitting the identifier list from the mail gateway to the mail terminal." The mail terminal is recited as receiving the identifier list from the mail gateway. Further, the mail terminal is recited as preparing an attached-file specifying e-mail that includes at least one identifier selected by the user among the unique identifiers as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail.

Claim 20 also recites that the attached-file specifying e-mail is transmitted "from the mail terminal to the mail gateway." To clarify that the mail gateway receives the attached-file

specifying e-mail, claim 20 has been amended to recite “receiving, in the mail gateway, the attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted in said transmitting of the attached-file specifying e-mail.”

Further, claim 20 recites that the mail gateway acquires at least one attached file from the mail server, where the at least one attached file corresponds to the at least one identifier included in the attached-file specifying e-mail received by the mail gateway. Claim 20 recites that the mail gateway constructs a file attached e-mail by attaching the acquired at least one attached file to the attached-file specifying e-mail, and that the file attached e-mail is transmitted from the mail gateway to the mail server.

Accordingly, claim 20 does not define the mail terminal as receiving the e-mail. Instead, as described above, the mail terminal is recited as receiving the identifier list from the mail gateway, which generates the identifier list. Furthermore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 clearly defines that the e-mail received by the server is different from the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in the mail terminal and received by the mail gateway. In particular, the e-mail received by the server is recited as including a plurality of attached files. On the other hand, the attached-file specifying e-mail is recited as including at least one of the unique identifiers of the attached files included in the e-mail received by the server, where the at least one identifier is selected by the user among the unique identifiers from the identifier list as a substitute for at least one attached file that the user wants to attach to the e-mail.

Therefore, in simplest terms, the e-mail received by the mail server (and not received by the mail terminal) includes a plurality of attached files, whereas the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in the mail terminal and received by the mail gateway includes at least one identifier of an attached file (not an attached file) that the user wants to attach to the e-mail.

Accordingly, claim 20 clearly recites that the mail server, not the mail terminal, receives the e-mail including the plurality of attached files, and that the “e-mail” received by the mail server is distinct from the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in the mail terminal and received by the mail gateway.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is clearly definite and particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Similar editorial revisions were made to claims 24 and 32 to clarify the features of these claims which the Examiner believed to be indefinite. However, it should be noted that claims 24 and 32 recite that the mail gateway, not the mail server, receives the e-mail including the plurality of attached files. Nevertheless, claims 24 and 32 recite that the mail terminal receives the identifier list, and that the e-mail received by the mail gateway, not the mail terminal, is distinct from the attached-file specifying e-mail prepared in the mail terminal and received by the mail gateway.

With regard to claims 43 and 54, the preamble of these claims clearly recites that the computer performs the recited operations. Therefore, claims 43 and 54 clearly recite that the computer, not the mail terminal, receives an e-mail addressed to a user who possesses the mail terminal and holds a plurality of attached files included in the e-mail. Accordingly, in contrast to the Examiner's assertion that it is not clear whether the mail terminal receives the e-mail including the plurality of attached files, claims 43 and 54 clearly define that the computer, not the mail terminal, receives the e-mail including the plurality of attached files.

Claims 43 and 54 also clearly define that the e-mail includes a plurality of attached files, whereas the attached-file specifying e-mail transmitted from the mail terminal includes at least one identifier among the unique identifiers respectively generated for each of the attached files included in the e-mail received by the computer. Therefore, similar to claims 20 and 24, claims 43 and 54 clearly recite that the e-mail received by the computer, not the mail terminal, is distinct from the attached-file specifying e-mail received by the computer from the mail terminal.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 24, 32, 43 and 54 are clearly definite and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 20, 24, 32 and 54 be withdrawn.

II. Art Rejection

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-18, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 50, 54 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Naick et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0108335) and further in view of Pollack (U.S. Patent Application

Publication No. 2002/0019851). This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The filing date of the present application is July 24, 2001. The filing date of Naick et al. is November 13, 2003, which is clearly after the filing date of the present application. Therefore, Naick et al. is clearly not prior art against the present application.

Consequently, the rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-18, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 48, 50, 54 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA, Naick et al. and Pollack is overcome, since the Examiner relied on a reference that is clearly not prior art against the present application.

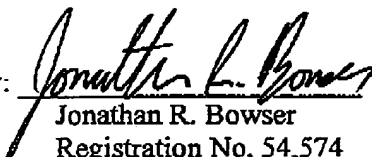
Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-18, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 39, 43, 48, 50, 54 and 58 are clearly patentable over the AAPA, Naick et al. and Pollack.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is respectfully solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 9, 2006